

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A structural framing member comprising:

a first shell member and a structurally separate second shell member each being elongated so as to have a length dimension which is greater than a width dimension, each shell having an interior surface and including one substantially open side extending along said length dimension, each shell being configured so that said first shell member is securable to said second shell member so that said substantially open sides of said first and second shell members are at least partially contiguous and said first and second shell members cooperate to define an interior volume;

a protective material disposed on the interior surface of at least one of said shells;

at least one reinforcing member positioned within said interior volume defined by said first and second shell member; and

a filler material disposed within said interior volume to secure said reinforcing member within said interior volume and wherein said filler material is of a different composition than said protective material.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The structural framing member of claim 1, wherein said first and second shell are generally u-shaped.

4. (Original) The structural framing member of claim 1, wherein said filler material is concrete.

5. (Original) The structural framing member of claim 1, wherein said first and second shells are generally l-shaped.

6. (Original) The structural framing member of claim 1, wherein a base of said first shell is wider than a base of said second shell.

7. (Original) The structural framing member of claim 2, wherein said protective material is a fire-resistant material.

8. (Original) The structural framing member of claim 7, wherein said fire-resistant material is mineral wool.

9. (Original) The structural framing member of claim 7, wherein said fire-resistant material is fiberglass.

10. (Original) The structural framing member of claim 2, wherein said fire protective material is a heat sink material.

11. (Original) The structural framing member of claim 10, wherein said heat sink material is gypsum board.

12. (Original) The structural framing member of claim 10, wherein said heat sink material is a cement plaster.

13. (Original) The structural framing member of claim 10, wherein said heat sink material is a concrete.

14. (Original) The structural framing member of claim 10, wherein said heat sink material is sand.

15. (Original) The structural framing member of claim 10, wherein said heat sink material is gravel.

16. (Original) The structural framing member of claim 2, wherein said protective material is a thermal insulation material.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a structural frame comprising:

providing a first shell member and a structurally separate second shell member each being elongated so as to have a length dimension which is greater than a width dimension, each shell member including one substantially open side extending along said length dimension and defining an interior channel;

applying a protective material to said interior surface of said at least one shell member;

securing said first shell member to said second shell member at least partially along said substantially open side so that the interior channels of the first and second shell members cooperate to define an interior volume;

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positioning at least one reinforcing member within each of said interior channels of said first and second shell member; and

filling said interior volume defined by said first and second shell member with a filler material having a different composition from said protective material so that said reinforcing members are secured within said interior volume.

Claim 18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A structural framing member comprising:

a first shell member and a structurally separate second shell member each being elongated so as to have a length dimension which is greater than a width dimension, each shell having an interior surface and including one substantially open side extending along said length dimension, each shell being configured so that said first shell member is securable to said second shell member so that said substantially open sides of said first and second shell members are at least partially contiguous and said first and second shell members cooperate to define an interior volume;

at least one spacing bar affixed to the interior surface of said first and second shell member;

a protective material applied on the interior surface of each of said shell members;

at least one reinforcing member disposed within the interior volume defined by said shell members; and

a filler material disposed within the interior volume to secure said at least one reinforcing member within the interior volume wherein said filler material is a different composition from said protective material.